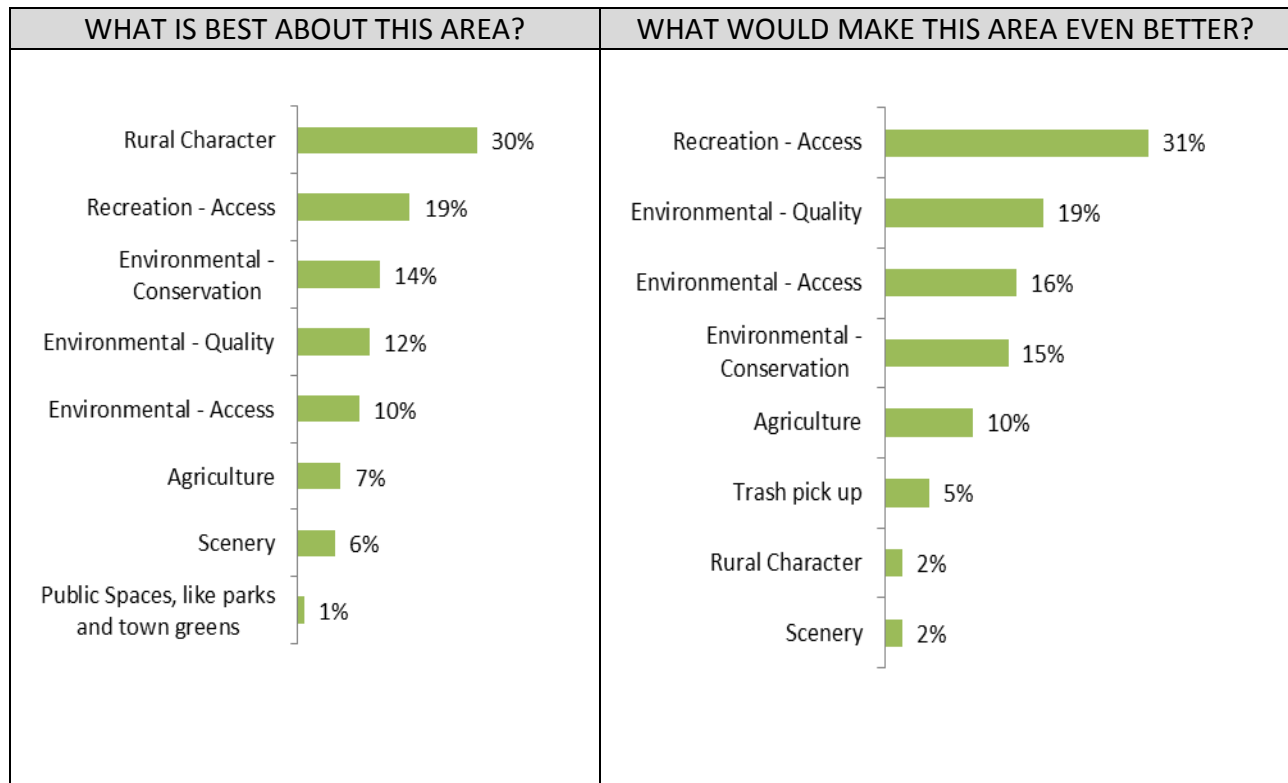


What We Heard About The Environment

Of the 771 respondents to the opinion survey, 247 responses were related to the environment chapter. Within those responses, 290 suggestions were made to “What is best about this area” that described what people currently like about the environment in the region. Rural character was the most talked about subject with 88 comments (30%). Many people also commented on the easy access to recreation opportunities throughout the region. The environment, specifically the conservation, quality and access were all common themes with a total of 105 comments. Many people think that overall the environment within the region is already being handled well.

The vast majority of the environment related comments were contained within 96 different improvements were offered in response to the question “What would make this area even better?” Almost half of the suggested improvements called for Recreation Access. Many people within the region expressed the desire to be able to ride bikes on certain roads and recommended more launch sides to the Merrimack River. Quality (19%), Access (16%) and Conservation (15%) for the environment was the next most frequently cited suggestions for improvement. Many of the comments related to these themes stated the need for the environment to be cleaned up, specifically Osgood Pond in Milford. Ten percent (10%) of the comments also suggested improvements in agriculture. Comments suggested that farm land should be preserved and not used for redevelopment.

Overall, the environment was a common theme found throughout the opinion surveys. The environment plays a major role in quality of life of the region’s citizens. It is important that the environment is taken into consideration in every aspect of the planning process and the results from the suggestion surveys provide evidence.



Many of the comments received directly relate to the categories of Rural Character, Scenery and Agriculture, Recreation Opportunities and Water Resources and Environment Quality. Responses related to Rural Character, Scenery and Agriculture are linked through farmland, neighborhood characteristics and beauty of the region. Recreation Opportunities consists of proximity to recreation opportunities, river access and state parks. Water Resources and Environment Quality includes cleaning up local water areas and cities. The following quotes are examples of the many comments received.

WHAT IS BEST ABOUT THIS AREA?	WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS AREA EVEN BETTER?
RURAL CHARACTER, SCENERY AND AGRICULTURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its quaint rural character – Hollis • The farmlands and beauty of the land, particularly the view on RT. 3A. Don't ever over develop – Litchfield • The blending of the natural environment and modern society – Hudson • Beautiful rural environment – Hollis • I like the scenery. I also like the country settings – Mont Vernon • Farm access/access to fresh products. Woods. – Milford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchards and farms – Hollis • Less development and keeping the farmlands. Keep the wooded area beautiful and free – Litchfield • Keep open space – Pelham • Preserve nature – Mont Vernon
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to coast, mountains and city. Places to escape the population – Hudson • Location – close to city, shore, mountains! Love Cutter Woods, Muldoon Park and all trails here in town – Pelham • Apple orchards, State Parks – Pelham • Close to Bear Brook State Park. The walking paths – Merrimack • The 4 seasons, free events, museums, mountains, skiing, outlets, friendly people – Merrimack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More places to go out and do things – Hollis • Slow down growth. Hiking paths like Beaver Brook – Litchfield • Multiple launch sites along the Merrimack so we could use our kayaks. Widen 3A at next paving so we could bicycle on it - Litchfield • Recreational opportunities i.e., rail trail, etc... - Mason • Stronger parks and recreation programs Restore Wasserman facilities - Merrimack
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and environment – Milford • Oval, Fishing in the river – Milford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up Osgood Pond – Amherst • To build the landscape and hardscape areas of downtown to a more quality type – Mason • Keeping clean and having visitors come to our state, respect NH – Merrimack • Osgood Pond would be better if it was dredged & cleaned and dam repaired – Milord